

“Then took Mary a pound of ointment of spikenard, very costly, and anointed the feet of Jesus, and wiped his feet with her hair; and the house was filled with the odour of the ointment.” John 12:3

OUR BEST FOR GOD

by Craig Marlatt

I often wonder what it must have been like to be in the presence of the Lord Jesus Christ when He was on the earth. Those few that knew Him were undoubtedly the most privileged people in history. Literally tens of thousands must have seen His face and witnessed His ministry as He went about the cities and towns of Israel healing the sick and doing many wonderful miracles. Yet the Bible tells us that in the upper room there were only a hundred and twenty people who responded to Jesus' command to the disciples to “. . . tarry ye in Jerusalem until ye be endued with power from on high” (Luke 24:49b).

Of course we know that those who did follow the Lord's command experienced the mighty baptism of the Holy Spirit, which marked the beginning of the Church Age. The upper room was filled with power from on high on that wonderful Day of Pentecost. Although obedience to Jesus meant probable death by Roman soldiers, they gave the best they had that day and were rewarded for their courage and faithfulness in a way that even the most enlightened among them could not imagine.

Lazarus, whom Jesus brought back from the grave, had a sister named Mary who also understood the meaning of true discipleship. In John chapter 12 we see her bringing forth her best ointment to pour out upon the feet of her Lord. John records this incident and says “. . . the house was filled with the odour of the ointment” (John 12:3).

Throughout history men and women have given their best for the love of Christ, and their lives and sacrifices have filled the house of God with a sweet smelling fragrance. The Church becomes a sweet smelling savor to the Lord, and the world, whenever she is willing to give her best for Jesus Christ.

Whatever we give to the least of Jesus' brethren we give to Him. We must be like King David who said that he would not offer anything to the Lord that he himself did not want. Like Mary we must bring Him only that which is precious to us or else we bring nothing at all.

Are you willing to give your best for your Lord? Are you willing to bring the things that you want for yourself and lay them at the feet of Jesus? It is right for us who are God's people to give our all for the One who gave His all for us. In so doing the world will be filled with a sweet smelling presence of Christ's love. It is this kind of Christianity that can bring renewal and revival to our generation.

The world is waiting to see someone who believes enough to give their all for the love of Christ. You and I have the power to change the world, not through politics or war but in lives submitted to the purposes of God through Jesus Christ. God's answer for every problem is found in Jesus, and it is through His Church that He desires to display His love to the lost and dying world.

We have but one life to live for Christ and we must live it with all that we have, giving Him only our best, remembering that God gave us His best when He sent his Son into the world to become an offering for our sins. Let us pray that our lives will be

blessed with a great awareness of the love that God displayed to us by sending His Son into the world. Because of our sins He came into the world, suffered, and died the cruel death of a condemned criminal. Yet in so doing He offers to each of us the power to give our own lives as a pleasing sacrifice to Him. If we will, I truly believe that the fragrance of our lives will fill God's house with a sweet perfume that is well pleasing to the Father. A perfect gift for the one who loves us most of all.